

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917

Vol. 09 No. 02

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From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP



Dave DeFebo

It has been about 6 weeks since you last read a newsletter. We have adjusted the schedule for 2001 to happen every 6 weeks instead of monthly. That means you will receive 8 newsletters instead of 11. By doing this as well as electronic distribution, we have slashed the newsletter costs from more than member dues to about 2/3 the dues income. This is not necessarily permanent. We will revisit next year. Just remember, to have more newsletters on paper means more money from somewhere.

The January meeting was about our new home for our repeater. There are continual improvements taking place for the operation. See elsewhere in this issue for more repeater info. The Febru-

ary meeting was a group discussion on general contesting. We will try to have a few group discussion type meetings during the year. The April meeting will be pictures and descriptions by Matt Planning about antenna measuring. He is going to a measurement facility on business and will tell us all about it. May is the second annual return to an auction. See elsewhere for the March meeting.

By the way, May is also an election for 3 director positions. Nominations are at the April meeting. Want to run for director?

Since this is now March, you should have paid your dues. If not, you may not be reading this. If that is the case, pay your dues, now!

Starting March 10 we are run-ning another Technician class. April 20 starts a General class. Both classes run for 4 weeks, on Saturday afternoons at AES. Be sure to tell everyone you know. Think about helping out too.

Cont. on pg. 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net
FRI	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB)
FRI	9:00 PM	147.045	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. Net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun Net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at 344-4694 or call:

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEURCHATTER

Superfest at AES is coming up April 6 and 7. MRAC will have a table in the club area and we will also be doing testing. Would you like to spend some time at the club table? Let me know (for Friday especially).

Field Day is June 23-24 this year. As always, MRAC will be participating. We will be at Pioneer Village in Ozaukee County once again. A number of people have suggested we pick up the pace a bit. That means trying to keep radios on the air for the entire contest, not sitting idle for some time. Why not come out and spend a couple of hours at a radio. We will have at least the 2 club owned radios and antennas. We have food and drink. We have shelter, not just a tent. Come on down. I would especially like to see anyone with an IC706, FT100 or something similar to bring out their radio and work some 6 or 2 M SSB. We have at least one 2M beam available. Remember, you do not have to have HF privileges (or even a license) to participate. Need more details? Contact Brian K9LCQ (K9LCQ@arrl.net). See you there.

Last time I asked for thoughts on the direction and activities of the club. Since that time I have had an overflowing of input (NOT!) from the membership, so let me push a little more. Taking our current activities and turning them into committees we have Meeting Hall (opening up, locking up, setting up, A/V or other equipment, refreshments, raffles), Repeater Control Operators, Repeater Planning, Field Day, VEC, License Classes and other training, Xmas Party, Membership database/roster, Nets - 10M and 2M, Chatter - Publishing and Distribution and Mailing and Mailing Labels, Web Page, etc. We sort of have at least one person for most of those positions. We should have more than one. And some positions really do not have anyone officially in them, just someone who picks up the slack when no

one else will. This is no way to operate. If I have to spend all my time begging people to do certain jobs, maybe we shouldn't have those jobs? How about it?

Before I finish off for this issue, a part 2 of the President's Rant (not often will I go off about 2 subjects in the same issue). Earlier I mentioned upcoming license classes. It appears we have the Technician class covered with instructors for this session. We have one person lined up for the General class. We could use another 1 or 2. If we want to continue to offer classes we need instructors. Dick McNew recently concluded his on-air code classes. Dick has done that for a number of years. He has paid his dues. I often hear people who comment that people should upgrade their license that there is more to ham radio than 2M repeaters -- that people should use CW. Well, if you feel that way why don't you offer to help people learn CW? Why don't you offer to help people upgrade their license? Why don't you put your money where your mouth is, so to speak? Dick did code practice for a number of years, sometimes for 2 hours a night, twice a week. I taught theory

classes of just about all license grades for 20 years. Jim Tromblay taught code in person (hauling a lot of equipment) for a number of years. For some years of our classes, we had to have non-members be instructors because our members were too, (well, who knows what). What have you done for code or theory training? If we could have 4 people volunteer to do code practice, any one person would only have to do 1 hour per month. The club first offered training classes in 1922. It would be a shame if we couldn't continue. I challenge the membership to find time to help new people get licensed, help licensed people upgrade, help people learn CW, help people learn Ham Radio. If we don't help people learn, we can not complain about them not knowing what we think they should. In the next issue I will publicly thank all who help out at our classes. I would also like to thank some people for picking up code practice. We'll see.

As always, sorry for my having to complain, but without a push we can not achieve great things. I'm just trying to push a little.



HAMATEUR CHATTER is the newsletter of **MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club)** which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$15.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is **(262) 797-MRAC.**

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.

the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Visit our website at: **<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>**

MRAC Board Meeting 01/22/Y2K+1

MRAC Board Meeting 1/22/01

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 at Ken Eggert's QTH. Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report: Les - KB9QZQ reports club liquid assets at \$3100.69 on 12/15/00 plus our CD and on 1/15/01 the total liquid assets were \$3476.65 plus the CD. Special note to all members, your dues are now due. Dues not received by February will not be recorded in time so that the member will be listed in the new roster.

The next board meeting will be at Tom, KF9PU's QTH. Feb. 19th.

Notice to all members: The board will start the club business meetings at 7:00 at all meetings this year. This will give more time for programs and allow members to get home earlier.

Matt, KB9PRC, is trying to arrange with Fred, W9NZF, to give a talk on code keys at the April meeting.

This Thursday's meeting will be on the latest news with the repeater., including pictures.

All Chatters for this year will come out every 6 weeks instead of 4. This will save

the club money and keep the yearly budget in the black without raising the cost of dues. The Christmas party actually made \$23.⁰⁰ and didn't cost the club extra as in years past.

VEC news from John - KF9XL, all testing will cost \$8.00. We will be testing at Super Fest at AES. The club will also have a table at the Fest. We need volunteers to man the table.

MRAC will be conducting classes in March for the Tech license. and April through May will be the General class. The next Chatter will have all the details.

The board has entertained the idea of engraved badges for MRAC members. The badges would sell for a small profit as a fund raiser. This badge could be used in place of the paper badges we issue at the beginning of the year.

Dave has almost completed the final layout of the club history. It will be in a small book for to be given to each new member when they join the club. The history book will also be available via computer. The computer version will be in color.

Fred Linn - W9NZF, called Jim - WB9LNU to confirm that our Field Day

site at the depot is available to us again this year. As usual, the club picnic will be held on Saturday during Field Day.

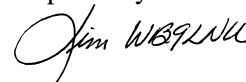
The Board has approved a donation of \$200.00 to the church for some equipment they want to purchase. The church has consented to the use of their room by MRAC for another year.

Dave would like to have a committee formed to develop ideas to improve the number of users of the club repeater. Any volunteers or ideas? Dave also wrote to the new central division director and is waiting to see if we get a response.

Finally, here are some observations made by Dave over the last year. We always seem to have the same people volunteering to do things for the club. Are others just to coming for the entertainment?

The nets on the repeater and 10 meters seem to always be the same. Not so much interest in the club Christmas party any more!! Field Day?? Classes?? Answers???

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Club Meeting 1/25/01

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 due to the new year 2001 meeting format.

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report for 12/15/2000. Total liquid assets \$3100.69. For 1/15/ 2001, \$3,476.65.

VEC fund \$1,377.64.

The microphone was passed for all present to LD.

Presidents report. The Christmas party was fun and we even made \$23 this year. Warren - K9IZV reports that we had 36 people at the party. Les - KB9QZQ, manned our table this year at the WestAllis Swapfest. MRAC will be at AES Superfest again this year.

MRAC will also have Tech classes again in March this year and a General class at

the end of April through May. Dave is still looking for additional volunteer teachers. Dick - WB9PTC needs help with his over the air CW classes.

Our President has sent a letter to our new ARRL Central Division director. We will see if we finally get a response.

Remember, we will only get a news letter every 6 weeks this year. The computer version will also be available. Also check-out the club web site once in awhile www.qsl.net.mrac

The February meeting will be a group discussion meeting. Talks about what interests the members most, over, the air etc.

Notice to all members: All test from our VE group will cost \$8.00 this year. The ARRL is charging \$10.00. Thanks to John and Tom for being our VEC's.

All members!!!!

Remember that your dues are now due! If not paid by the end of Feb., you won't appear in the club roster for this year.

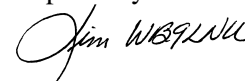
Auction! Dave, our President did his usual best to have a fun auction to sell an antenna donated by Jerry, WA9CGE, he also auctioned a clock and a antenna book.

Tommy Gettelman, W9IZO, has 20 years of QST magazines he would like to give away. Free!

Business meeting adjourned at 8:00. Warren, K9IZV, reports 44 members in attendance.

The program was on the clubs repeater. Dave presented pictures of the installation and some details on it's operation and testing results.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim WB9LNU,
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 02/19/01

MRAC Board Meeting 2/19/2001

The meeting was called to order at Tom's (KF9PU) QTH.

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

No Treasurers report, due to not receiving the statement from the bank as of yet. The Treasurer reports that 82 members are now paid up on dues.

The next board meeting will be at Barb's (KB9TIV) QTH. April at Matt's (?), May at Jim's (WB9LNU) and June at John's (WB9PSE).

The April club meeting will be nominations night for three board directors that are running for re-election. The present director positions are currently being held by John - WB9PSE, Pancho - KA9OFA and Barb - KB9TIV. All of them have indicated that they would be interested in running again.

The May club meeting will be the election for three directors. It will also be the club's yearly auction night.

Brian has offered to put the notice on the public service net. All members, please remember that all meetings now start at 7 P.M.

VEC report - Tom reports that there are still a few problems with data entry. The inscription code must be exact. He also reports that at this time we have no established policy for renewals. In the past, if you were a club member, your renewal would be handled free. Now most members that own a computer can renew

themselves. If you do not have a computer and are a member, talk to Tom, KF9PU.

Classes -- Ken, KS4NX and others are preparing for classes starting March 10th at AES. They are always looking for additional volunteers to teach.

Club badges/ID cards. John, WB9PSE, will purchase some wallet size cards for this year's club badges. The Treasurer will fill them out and issue them to the members at the meeting. Dave, our President will contact a badge company and furnish them with the info to incorporate the club logo with an engraved badge and then give the ordering information to the membership. Each member will be responsible for ordering their own badge if they want one. The order information will be in the Chatter.

Dave has completed the formatting of the club's history book. This book will be included with all new member paperwork. All existing members will also get a copy. Dave has also made a large copy of the history with each sheet in plastic to be used as a master copy at swapfest and other events, on the club's table. The history was written by Jim - WB9LNU and Dave - WB9BWP.

The club's repeater. The control ops are Dave - WB9BWP, Matt - KB9PRC, Jim - WB9LNU, Nick - KA9LUW, Jerry - WA9CGE and Kate - KA9MWT.

The committee to determine future plans for the repeater consist of Jerry -

WA9CGE and Ken - KS4NX. They are looking for a third person to be on their committee. At present, the repeater is connected, as it was at Ed Wille's house, it has all four cavities and the intermod filter in the circuit. Matt, has retuned the cavities. This spring, they will experiment with antenna's to see if coverage can be improved to the south.

Year 2001 committee's - Brian and Jim for Field Day. Brian is looking for additional people to help with the food.

Chatter - Pancho, Barbara, John Merkl and Brian.

Classes and training - Ken and ????????

Meetings - Jim, Myron, Alfred, Tom and Jacqie.

Repeater - Dave, Matt, Nick, Jim, Mark and others at the site.

Future ideas Jerry and Ken.

VEC - John and Tom.

Christmas Party - Vem and ??????

Fund raising - ????????

PR - ???????

The meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU

Secretary



Jim - WB9LNU,
Secretary

Hip, Hip, Hooray!!!

I am pleased to announce that John Kraak, KF9XL, is now qualified to file the applications submitted during MRAC test sessions. As head of our VEC team, John is in charge of producing the written tests and overseeing the exam sessions. He may now also file the applications in my ab-

sence. This involves data entry of the applicant information and submitting the results to the FCC electronically. I congratulate John on his accomplishment.

Tom

Tom Fuszard
KF9PU

Ta, Da!!!

MRAC Club Meeting 2/22/2001

The meeting was called to order at 7:08.

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report - We have not received the clubs bank statement at of yet. There was no report.

82 members have paid their dues. The others will not receive the next Chatter until they pay.

The mic was passed for all to I.D.

Dave, our President, reports he has added an extra blank on the sign in sheet asking all members if they are interested in helping on any of the committee's to run the club.

The club will make arrangements with an engraving company to have special badges made with the club logo on them. Each person can then order their own badge if they chose to have one. The club will not be asking for a cut on the special badges.

Remember that your dues are due. Anyone not paid as of now will not receive their Chatter or a club ID card or a copy of the clubs history book.

Much effort has been put into this history book which includes World events as well as MRAC events year by year. All copies will be in black and white. However, a color copy is available electronically.

Classes are starting soon. March 10th. at AES. See Ken, KS4NX, if you would

like to volunteer. Class space will be provided again this year for free by AES.

Also don't forget that the AES Superfest is April 6 and 7.

Dave has contacted the new ARRL Central Division director located in St. Charles, Ill. He did respond via E-Mail within two hours. He seems to be much more active than the previous director. We will see. Pancho will put his response into the Chatter if space permits.

Repeater - All the cavities have been readjusted. This spring, antenna experiments will take place to see if the coverage to the south can be improved. At present, four cavities are in use along with the intermod filter and two antenna's.

Nick, KA9LUW, thanked all the members for the get well card after he had a stroke. Said it really boosted his spirits.

Jerry, WA9CGE, donated another J-Pole antenna to the club for Dave to auction off at the meeting. As usual Dave's auction methods are very entertaining.

Remember that the May meeting is the clubs yearly auction night. The whole meeting will be for the auction. A short business meeting will be held for the elections only. Nominations for re-election of existing directors and new directors will be held at the April meeting.

The program for the evening was on contesting and operating practices.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:45.

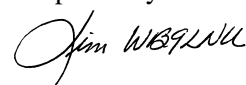
Brian, K9LCQ, our Field Day coordinator this year is looking for volunteers to help him with the food and other details to prepare for Field Day. He would like to see if we can increase our score this year buy making more contacts. Also beware that Field Day is the official club picnic day. Bring your family out to Pioneer Village to see the site and have lunch on Saturday. Field Day officially starts at 1:00.

Special thanks to Fred Linn - W9NZF, for organizing the use of the Depot site for another year.

Vern - W9RYA, has offered to find the club Christmas party site again this year. He is looking at the Machine Shed on I-94 west and Hwy. J. They have a place that can hold 70 people. The members voted to authorize Vern to go ahead and make the arrangements. Dave, our president, would like a committee to take care of the details for the party instead of having the board do it. Any volunteers????

Dick - WB9PTC, still needs help or a replacement to do CW classes over the air. Someday he may not be able to do it any more. The classes are held over the club's repeater on Wed. nights at 7:30. Listen in and see how it goes.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Bob Immekus W9CYI
John Kraak KF9XL
Jack Krause W9JK
Dick McNew WB9PTC
Les Peterson W9YCV
Jerry Thompson . W9SFH
Jim Tromblay WB9LNU

73, John (KF9XL)
John KF9XL

VEC Report

MRAC VEC - A held VE testing on Jan 27, 2001 at AES. There were 8 candidates, and 7 were successful in upgrading or getting their first license. 8 elements were given, and 5 were passed. VE's participating in the session included the following:

Barbara Brewer .. KB9TIV
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Ken Caruso KS4NX
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Bob Immekus W9CYI
John Kraak KF9XL

Norm McNew KB9QL
Sherm Swanson . KB9Q

MRAC VEC - A held VE testing on Feb 24, 2001 at AES. There were 4 candidates, and 3 of them were successful in getting their first license. Five exam elements were given, and 3 were passed. A discussion of testing methods for candidates with disability was also held. The following VE's braved the inclement weather and poor driving conditions to make the session a success:

Doug Awe N9VA



Field Day

SE Wisconsin Hams Gear Up to Set Long Distance Contact Records and Practice Emergency Communication Skills.

Milwaukee, June 23rd - 24th, 2001 - Hundreds of amateur radio operators will work around the clock this weekend to set up field radio communication stations, get on the air, and contact thousands of other operators in the US and Canada as part of participation in the American Radio Relay League's Field Day.

According to Dave DeFebo, President of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Field Day is the annual shakedown run for the ARRL's National Field Organization. Field Day is a way for hams to get outdoors and have fun under some difficult conditions, Dave says. But it is also a chance to fine-tune emergency communication skills. We use generators and battery power, and we set up antennas in the field. The idea is to put together a self-sufficient, working sta-

tion quickly and begin making contacts.

The ARRL Field Organization has been effective in establishing emergency communications nets during floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes and other major disasters. Members of formal emergency organizations such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Communication Emergency Services (RACES) regularly participate. The League estimates that more than 35,000 hams participate in Field Day every year.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Field Day operations will be at **Pioneer Village** (in the railroad depot), located north of Cedarburg northwest of Port Washington, on Hwy I, north of hwy 33, (adjacent to Hawthorne Hills Country Club), south of hwy 84, west of I-43.

The public is invited. For more information contact the club W9RH at 262 797-6722 voice answering machine.

Operations begin around **9:00 AM on Saturday June 23rd** (equipment setup) with actual **contest operating beginning at 1:00 PM**. The contest ends at **4:00 PM Sunday June 24th** (though a station may only operate 24 consecutive hours). MRAC will shut down at 1:00 PM (24 hours).

CONTACT: **MRAC**

W9RH at 262 797-6722

W9RH@arrl.net,

147.045MHz+ 127.3pl

28.490Mhz SSB Fridays 8:30 p.m.

Brian W. White

Repeater Repeater Use our Repeater @ 147.045 MHz +600 KHz

Repeater News:

At the January meeting we had pictures and a discussion of the work on the repeater. The current details are: **147.045 MHz +600 KHz**. Currently open access but PL (127.3 Hz) is an option and could be turned on at any time. The location is the vicinity of 27 and W.Capitol in Milwaukee. The transmitter puts out 8.5 watts into a 100 watt amplifier. There are cavities and filters in line with the receiver and transmitter which do account for some loss (all the cavities have been recently tuned). Antennas are fed with 1/2" hardline (150' for the transmitter and 25' for the receiver). The result is an ERP of about 200 W. We are currently using separate antennas for receive (9 db gain 140' up) and transmit (6 db gain 120' up). When the snow melts and it is a bit warmer, we will try one antenna. The current coverage is a little light to the south and especially southeast and some western low spots. This is due to 2 factors, the transmit antenna is not oriented to favor the south and has a 2.5 story

metal shield is in it's way (but helps isolate the 2 antennas), and the receive antenna has too much gain. What? How can an antenna have too much gain? A vertical antenna has a normally low angle of radiation (the angle the signal leaves the antenna). The higher the gain, the sharper that angle becomes. Place that antenna about 140' in the air (the height of the receive antenna) and the low angle means we are probably shooting over the heads of people in Bay View, Cudahy, South Milwaukee (those locations are at a lower elevation than the repeater site). The one antenna we want to try will be smaller and have less gain and a greater angle of radiation so our south coverage should improve (lower the gain and improve coverage?). We stay a bit vague about exactly where it is as it is located on a private business who is donating the space, electricity and telephone. They are not in the business of providing antenna space and we don't want people lining up at their door looking for space. Also because it is in a private business, access is limited to employees.

Luckily there are about a dozen hams working in the building (with a few more in an adjoining building), so they are the technical committee. We have some control operators signed up. They include Nick Broncatti KA9LUW, Jerry WA9CGE, Jim Tromblay WB9LNU, Kate Kedney KA9MWT, Matt Planning KB9PRC, and myself. Anyone else interested? Let me know.

We are now in a 1 year trial period for our repeater. A committee has been formed to investigate the future of the repeater. Beginning at the January 2002 board meeting we will take up that discussion. So far the committee consists of Ken Caruso KS4NX and Jerry WA9CGE. We need at least 1 more person. Contact me to volunteer.

Finally, please make use of the repeater. If you have any comments including having trouble getting in, or being impressed with being so far away and still getting in, be sure to let us know. Just send to the club email address (w9rh@arrl.net) or tell Matt Planning (engine-ear@voyager.net) or myself (wb9bwp@arrl.net) or just **tell us on the air!**

Saturday Breakfasts

We are still having our Saturday morning breakfasts out at Maxim's Restaurant at 18025 W. Capitol Dr. Just west of Calhoun Rd.

This is not an organized thing but we generally meet at about 8:00 AM. and try to order at about 8:15.

Recently we've had anywhere from about three people and as many as thirteen.

Topics of conversation cover just about anything imaginable.

The Food's good and the company is great.

Come on out on a Saturday morning and enjoy the camaraderie.

Friday Evening Nets.

Our Friday evening nets need some new blood and activity.

It seems that sometimes we have fair turnout on a Friday evening but the other times other things get in the way and we have almost no one on the nets.

Our nets are as follows:

FRI 8:30 PM 28.490 MHz
MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB)

FRI 9:00 PM 147.045 +
MHz W9RH 2 mtr. FM net right
after the 10 mtr. Net

If you wish, you can even be a net control.

Repeater News

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The location is the vicinity of 27th and Capitol in Milwaukee. The transmitter puts out 8.5 watts into a 100 watt amplifier. There are cavities and filters in line with the receiver and transmitter which do account for some loss (all the cavities have been recently tuned). Antennas are fed with 1/2" hardline (150' for the transmitter and 25' for the receiver). The result is an ERP of about 200 W. We are currently using separate antennas for receive (9 db gain 140' up) and transmit (6 db gain 120' up). When the snow melts and it is a bit warmer, we will try one antenna.

The current coverage is a little light to the south and especially southeast and some western low spots. This is due to 2 factors, the transmit antenna is not oriented to favor the south and has a 2.5 story metal shield in its way (but helps isolate the 2 antennas), and the receive antenna has too much gain.

What? How can an antenna have too much gain? A vertical antenna has a normally low angle of radiation (the angle the signal leaves the antenna). The higher the gain, the sharper that angle becomes. Place that antenna

VEC Schedule

The following is a list of future test dates for the 2001 exam season: March 31, 2001; April 28, 2001; May 26, 2001; July 28, 2001. There may be an extra session for swapfests/superfests, but our participation has not been scheduled as yet.

There will be testing at **SuperFEST** at AES on Saturday April 7, 2001.

about 140' in the air (the height of the receive antenna) and the low angle means we are probably shooting over the heads of people in Bay View, Cudahy, South Milwaukee (those locations are at a lower elevation than the repeater site). The one antenna we want to try will be smaller and have less gain and a greater angle of radiation so our south coverage should improve (lower the gain and improve coverage?).

We stay a bit vague about exactly where it is as it is located on a private business who is donating the space, electricity and telephone. They are not in the business of providing antenna space and we don't want people lining up at their door looking for space. Also because it is in a private business, access is limited to employees.

Luckily there are about a dozen hams working in the building (with a few more in an adjoining building), so they are the technical committee.

We have some control operators signed up. They include Nick Broncatti KA9LUW, Jerry WA9CGE, Jim Tromblay WB9LNU, Kate Kedney KA9MWT, Matt Planning KB9PRC, and myself. Anyone else interested? Let me know.

We are now in a 1 year trial period for our repeater. A committee has been formed to investigate the future of the repeater. Beginning at the January 2002 board meeting we will take up that discussion. So far the committee consists of Ken Caruso KS4NX and Jerry WA9CGE. We need at least 1 more person. Contact me to volunteer.

Finally, please make use of the repeater.

If you have any comments including having trouble getting in, or being impressed with being so far away and still getting in, be sure to let us know. Just send to the club email address (w9rh@arrl.net) or tell Matt Planning (engine-ear@voyager.net) or myself (wb9bwp@arrl.net) or just **tell us on the air!**

Communique

from ARRL Central Division Director

4 FEB, 2001 - 2355 CST

Hello Dave...

I appreciate the "Mr. Isely", but please call me "Dick" in our future communications. While you will see all official documents requiring my signature signed with my legal name "George R. Isely", I prefer that those who come to know me as a friend call me by my nickname "Dick". This is not to demean the office I currently hold but to indicate I am approachable by all the hams in the Central Division, regardless of their ARRL membership status.

In the short time since I officially took office on JAN 1, it has become even more obvious to me that my predecessor had in his later years pretty much isolated himself from his constituents. I will do my best to keep this from happening on my watch and hopefully it will rub off on my successor. I plan to communicate both by electronic means and in person, schedule permitting, with as many people as practical. And yes, you will see my name mentioned in future ARRL board meeting minutes.

I have been in contact with Ray Grenier, K9KHW about the coming AES Superfest on April 6-7. I would like to attend one of the two days, but I don't

know if this is going to happen this year. This is because I'm also the Vice President of the Illinois Repeater Assn. and we have a board meeting scheduled for the evening of April 6th in Bloomington, IL and the Annual IRA Membership Meeting is the next morning on the 7th. I'm not sure I can skip these meetings as they were planned last summer. But who knows, I may be able to work out some sort of a solution. I would hope to be able to get these dates synchronized next year and thus avoid the date conflict.

I have had a couple of phone conversations as well as several email exchanges with Wisconsin SM, Don Michalski and I look forward to talking with him in person in the not too distant future. Everything I have heard about him has been very positive.

At this point, all I can promise is that you all will be seeing more of your ARRL Director than you have in the past. When and where remains to be worked out over the coming months.

73 - Dick Isely, W9GIG

ARRL Central Division Director

Silent Key

William I. Orr, W6SAI

Bill Orr, silent key at age 81, a former manager of tube applications for the amateur radio market at Eitel-McCullough, Inc.

Bill became a radio amateur (W2HCE) at the age of 15, then was assigned W6SAI as an EE undergraduate at Berkeley. He worked in the Radio Test Department of Douglas Aircraft during WW II, and later for Hughes Aircraft Co. He then worked 28 years at Eimac, where his "Amateur Service Newsletters" and a long series of construction articles and columns in the amateur press made him a familiar figure to a generation of hams.

He took part in numerous DXpeditions (FP8AC, 3A2AF, ZL0SAI) and was later active in Project Oscar / AMSAT. He wrote numerous books on antennas and edited several issues of the Radio Handbook.

So Long Bill

I was very well acquainted with Bill Orr, and we maintained a steady correspondence concerning vacuum tubes — he was also a collector back in the 50's & 60's. I had met him at various hamfests, and at the AWA meets in Rochester, NY. He was also a collector of parts for antique radio restoration — usually old time communications receivers which he might be restoring at the time.

I sold him a couple of old National receivers, the most notable one was my AGS (early super). He also wrote for many ham publications, including the old "Radio" Handbook. Prolific guy!

I thought this might 'ring a bell' with some of the older guys in the MRAC - pardon the nostalgia! He is about the last of the old time "greats".

So long, Bill—Great to have known ya'.

Fred

Fred - W9NZF

Further Note on CW Shut-Down

At midnight July 13, 1999, KFS & KPH on the west coast, and WLO in the gulf ceased all Morse Code traffic hankling, after almost 100 years of service to ships at sea. Globe Wireless (station owners) organized a commemorative ceremony.

The "key" event (you should pardon the expression), was the transmission of the last PAID Morse message from a ship - the Jeremiah O'Brien to San Francisco's KFS - the receiving station.

The ship's Radio Officer, Rod Deakin, Chief Engineer of Globe Wireless sent a message to President Clinton, Using the Ship's original Morse transmitter,

The message concluded with Samuel Morse's words - "What hath God wrought?" used in 1844, when demonstrating the first use of his telegraph.

Interestingly, while the message was received in Morse Code by the operator at Half Moon Bay, it was relayed to the White House - (you guessed it) - by E-Mail!

I guess HE wrought them both!)

Fred

Fred - W9NZF



Fred - W9NZF

E (upcoming)

* indicates VE testing

NS9RCFEST
SUN. - MAR 25, 2001
Lake Co. Fairgrounds
Grayslake IL

SUPERFEST 2001 *
FRI. & SAT. - APR. 6 & 7, 2001
AES
Milwaukee, WI

MADISON SWAPFEST
SUN. - APRIL 8, 2001
Mandt Community Center
Stoughton Junior Fairgrounds
Stoughton, WI

Dayton HamFest 2001
WED., THU, & FRI. - MAY 18,19,20
Dayton OH

CEDARBURG SWAPFEST *
SAT. - MAY 5, 2001
CircleB Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI

**PRINCETON HAMFEST &
COMPUTER SHOW**
SUN. - JUN. 3, 2001
BUREAU CO. FAIRGROUNDS
PRINCETON, IL
T/I on 146.955 MHz (PL 103.5)

SMARC SWAPFEST '01
SAT. - JULY 7, 2001,
AMERICAN LEGION POST 434

CIRCUS CITY SWAPFEST *
KSAT. - AUG. 11, 2001
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on 147.315+ (123.0 PL)

Visit our website at:

<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP **WB9LNU** **KF9PU**
K9LCQ **W9NZF** **KF9XL**

Thanks to Rita and Julie Doneis for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Many thanks!!

Meeting Schedule

Our Meeting schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

March 29	August 30,
April 26	Sept. 27
May 32,	Oct. 25,
June 28,	Nov. 29,
July 26,	

See you there!
Pancho - KA9OFA

March & April



March

Harold (Hal) Newton KB9OZN ...03/06
David Go KG9GL03/07
Willard Lorenz W9ZOL03/10
Fred Mikolajewski.... KC9WW03/13
Edward Seruga KE9JJ03/13
Jack Krause W9JK03/19
Lester Hundt..... KB9QZQ ...03/26

April

Ken Caruso KS4NX04/01
James Ott W9LCD04/04
Brooks Blanchard.... KE9CR04/07
Bernard Shuster..... KB4QXV ...04/07
Allan Drobac..... AA9XH04/08
Ron Hagen KB9KYI04/09
Delbert Clark KA9ZMK ...04/12
Patrick Malloy W9ZO04/12
Hans Schroeder AE9G04/14
John Lefebber W9VAT04/16
Syl Janczak WD9JKZ ...04/17
Tom Czaja KG9EE04/18
John Friedrichsen WA9NAY ...04/18
Ron Crown KA9JCP04/21
Robert Gorski KB9VNE ...04/21
David J. Griffin KB9PRF ...04/21
Mark Bye KB9LDX ...04/22
Ken Eggert W9MOT04/26
Charles Merten..... W9CHD04/27
Norman Russell..... KB9GQX...04/29
William Lubitz W9EMC04/30

;; Happy Birthday !!

73 de KB9LCQ - Brian



MRAC

Upcoming meetings:

**Thu. - March 29, and
Thu. - April 26 2001**

7:00 PM (New Time).

Location: **Redemption Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

**Please! Don't call the Church
for information!!!**

.....

Please visit our nets as follows:

W9RH 10 meter SSB Net

FRI 8:30 PM 28.490MHz

W9RH 2 mtr. FM Net

FRI 9:00 PM 147.045 +
after the 10 mtr. Net

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FROM SPACE TO SPACE